

Travax Report
Prepared for: U.S. Army Forces Command Surgeon
Information current through 10 March 00

ITINERARY

Home Country: UNITED STATES

1. AMERICAN SAMOA

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Hepatitis A

- *American Samoa*

Consider active immunization with hepatitis A vaccine or passive immunization with immune globulin (IG) for all susceptible travelers. Especially consider choosing active immunization for persons planning to reside for a long period or for persons who take frequent short-term trips to risk areas. The importance of protection against hepatitis A increases as length of stay increases. It is particularly important for persons who will be living in or visiting rural areas, eating or drinking in settings of poor or uncertain sanitation, or who will have close contact with local persons (especially young children) in settings with poor sanitary conditions.

Hepatitis B

- *American Samoa*

Vaccination is advised for health care workers, persons anticipating direct contact with blood from or sexual contact with inhabitants, and persons planning extended stays of 6 months or greater (especially those who anticipate using local health care facilities, staying in rural areas, or having intimate contact with the local population).

Typhoid

- *American Samoa*

Vaccination should be considered for persons staying longer than 3 weeks, adventurous eaters, and those who will venture off the usual tourist routes into small cities, villages and rural areas. Importance of vaccination increases as access to reasonable medical care becomes limited. Contraindications depend on vaccine type.

Routine

- *American Samoa*

All routine vaccines (such as DTP or Td, Hib, MMR, polio, varicella, influenza and pneumococcal) should be kept up-to-date as a matter of good health practice unrelated to travel.

COUNTRY INFORMATION

AMERICAN SAMOA

GENERAL INFORMATION

American Samoa, a territory of the United States, is a mountainous seven-island chain approximately 2,300 miles (3,700 km) southwest of Hawaii in the South Pacific Ocean. Six of the seven islands, which are volcanic in origin, are divided into three groups: Tutuila & Aunou, Ofu & Olosega & Tau, and Rose Island. Swains Island, the seventh, lies 200 miles (320 km) north of the others. The capital, Pago Pago, is located on Tutuila, the main island in the group. Pago Pago is the only port and urban center in the territory.

The climate is rainy and tropical, with the wettest season extending from December to April, when the average rainfall is 200 inches (510 cm) and cyclones may occur. Average temperatures range from 70 to 90°F (21-32°C) throughout the year.

HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

General Cautions

Recent medical and dental exams should ensure that the traveler is in good health. Carry appropriate health and accident insurance documents and copies of any important medical records. Bring an adequate supply of all prescription and other medications as well as any necessary

personal hygiene items, including a spare pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses if necessary.

Drink only bottled beverages (including water) or beverages made with boiled water. Do not use ice cubes or eat raw seafood, rare meat or dairy products. Eat well-cooked foods while they are still hot and fruits that can be peeled without contamination. Avoid roadside stands and street vendors.

Swim only in well-maintained, chlorinated pools or ocean water known to be free from pollution. Wear clothing which reduces exposed skin and apply repellents containing DEET to remaining areas. Sleep in well-screened accommodations. Carry anti-diarrheal medication.

Reduce problems related to sun exposure by using sunglasses, wide-brimmed hats, sunscreen lotions and lip protection.

DISEASE RISK SUMMARY

Insect-borne illness:

- Dengue fever -- occurs
- Dengue hemorrhagic fever -- occurs
- Filariasis -- prevalent

Other hazards:

- High levels of immunization coverage have reduced the incidence of diseases such as measles and diphtheria.
- Influenza risk extends throughout the year.

OFFICIAL HEALTH DATA

Requirements

Yellow fever: A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travelers over 1 year of age coming from infected areas.

USDOS ADVISORY

American Samoa is a territory belonging to the United States. The Department of State does not issue a Consular Information Sheet for American Samoa.